

TWO RINGS

Two months ago,
after watching local news,
he separated his keys.
Two key rings
instead of one.
Separating house
from car just
in case some
armed crazy
jacks him out
of his car.

ED & LARRY

Ed & Larry
both in their 50s,
were friends.
Trouble started
after they drank
a good deal
of port wine
& vodka. They
argued over a
misunderstanding
once buried
in their past.
Larry grabbed a
knife & Ed
killed him with
a 25 he always
carried. At his
trial Ed said
he wished there
was some way
to take it back.

COOLING

A finely crafted
revolver in one's
hand rivals a
desirable woman
for choice but
only if one is
past the fire &
into the cooling
of late middle life.

DAD'S SCARF

I have my father's
wool scarf. He died
in 1974 & now
my mother, who is
moving to a rest
home, is giving
her possessions away
to surviving members
of our family.
It's a loom-woven
scarf in three colors:
light orange, tan &
brown. He brought it
with him from Santa
Barbara to Alturas
before I was born.
I never use scarves,
but I'll use this
one in Truckee where
it gets cold in winter.